

Sinclair
Broadcasting's
decision to force
their stations to
air an anti-Kerry
documentary days
before the election
is a clear example
of the dangers of
media consolidation.

I have sent the
following letter to
Sinclair and wanted
to share with you my
opinion of their
actions.

"The partisan
politics of your
executives have no
place in the
newsrooms of your
television stations.

Please reconsider
this misguided
decision. The
Washington Post
article states,
"Sinclair's top
executives,
including members of
the controlling
Smith family, have
been strong
financial supporters
of Bush's campaign."

I am appalled that
you are willing to
make your stations
perform such a
tactic that is
obviously not in the
best interest of the
station or the
public. The
stations that air
this program will
destroy their
credibility with
their viewing
public. We have two
Sinclair stations
here in San Antonio,
which are KABB, Fox
29 and KRRT, WB 35.
Sinclair stations
use public airwaves
free of charge, and
are required by law
to serve the public
interest. One-sided
programs like
"Stolen Honor" do
not, and are harmful
to our democracy.

Please do not
air "Stolen Honor,"
or if you do, please
be sure to air a
pro-Kerry program
like "Going Upriver"
shortly after. Thank
you."

Sinclair uses the
public airwaves free
of charge, and is
obligated by law to
serve the public
interest. But when
large companies
control the
airwaves, we get
more of what's good
for the bottom line
and less of what we
need for our
democracy. Instead
of something
produced at "News
Central" far away,
it's more important
that we see real
people from our own
communities and more
substantive news
about issues that
matter.

Sinclair's actions
show why we need to
strengthen media
ownership rules, not
weaken them. They
show why the license
renewal process
needs to involve
more than a returned
postcard. Thank you.